

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

IN HONOR OF SARA STEINHAUER

HON. JIM GERLACH

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 30, 2011

Mr. GERLACH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Sara Steinhauer of Douglassville, Berks County, Pennsylvania in recognition of her 105th birthday.

Born near Skippack, Montgomery County on March 25th, 1906, Sara grew up on a farm in Skippack Township and attended public school through 10th grade in a one-room schoolhouse. When she turned 19, Sara moved to Perkase, Pennsylvania to begin her career as a seamstress with Wemen's Apparel, developing skills in ladies' fashion. She was later promoted to the position of floor lady which she maintained until her retirement in 1968.

The eighth of thirteen children, Sara was blessed with twelve brothers and sisters. Her husband, George D. Steinhauer, passed in 1984 after 57 happy years of marriage. Before moving to the distinctive retirement community of Villa at Morlatton, Sara lived in Telford, Pennsylvania for many of her retirement years and then an apartment in Pottstown, Pennsylvania near her nephew Leroy Fitzgerald.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me today in congratulating Sara Steinhauer on the occasion of her 105th birthday and extending her best wishes for continued health and happiness.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JACKIE SPEIER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 30, 2011

Ms. SPEIER. Mr. Speaker, I was unfortunately unable to cast votes on the evening of March 29, 2011.

On rollcall 194, I would have voted no.

On rollcall 195 I would have voted aye.

On rollcall 196 I would have voted aye.

On rollcall 197, the motion to recommit, I would have voted aye.

On rollcall 198, final passage, I would have voted aye.

The Making Home Affordable Program simply has not protected homeowners from foreclosure, or ensured that mortgage servicers work with homeowners in good faith to achieve loss mitigation that works for homeowners, investors and our communities. Despite clear and repeated calls for reform of the program from the Congressional Oversight Panel, the Special Inspector General for the TARP, and the GAO, changes to the program have been too little and too late. While my constituents and homeowners across the country continue to struggle through good faith efforts to keep their homes, banks are again making record profits and paying large bonuses to their executives and employees.

Despite well documented abuses of homeowners by mortgage servicers participating in the HAMP, no servicers have been sanctioned or fined for violations of HAMP program requirements, despite clear authority to do so. I do not take this position lightly, particularly in light of the fact that no alternative program to help homeowners is offered. However I simply cannot continue to offer support for a program that has protected banks and servicers at the expense of my constituents.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MIKE PENCE

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 30, 2011

Mr. PENCE. Mr. Speaker, I was absent from the House floor during rollcall votes 192 and 193. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on rollcall 192 and "no" on rollcall 193.

A BILL OF RIGHTS FOR WOMEN VETERANS

HON. BOB FILNER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 30, 2011

Mr. FILNER. Mr. Speaker, I recently introduced important legislation to establish a women veterans bill of rights, H.R. 809.

There are now 1.8 million women veterans, and the number of these women turning to the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs for treatment and services is increasing every day. In fact, current VA estimates project that the percentage of women among the total number of veterans enrolled in the VA health care system will have risen to 10 percent by 2018, up from 7.7 percent now.

Mr. Speaker, men have long been the dominant stakeholder within VA, but it is past time that VA recognizes women veterans as an equally important stakeholder.

During hearings and roundtables over the past Congresses, the Committee on Veterans' Affairs has asked women veterans to come forward with their own stories about their experiences with VA. From their accounts, it is clear that while VA has made some strides in caring for women, significant gaps remain.

The veterans testifying before the Committee have told us of an unwelcoming culture within some VA facilities that makes women veterans feel alienated, disrespected, and reluctant to pursue the benefits and services that they have earned with their sacrifices.

VA must recognize and be equipped to treat the unique medical concerns that women veterans have. They must respect privacy concerns and eliminate cultural insensitivity that may otherwise bar women from accessing VA health care and they must ensure that women and male veterans are always treated equally

in their ability to secure quality VA benefits and services.

This legislation would take us closer to achieving that long overdue standard.

H.R. 809 would require VA to display in all of their facilities, 24 fundamental principles governing their treatment of women veterans. Veterans who may have felt isolated and unwelcome in VA facilities before will be able to read these principles and understand VA's responsibility to them.

The principles lay out women veterans' right to state-of-the-art medical technologies and procedures for treating their unique medical concerns, VA's responsibility to provide vigorous outreach to inform women of the VA benefits and services they are entitled to, and other important guidelines for what women veterans can and should expect of VA.

Above all, the principles make clear that VA must always treat women veterans as they should treat any veteran, with sensitivity to their unique concerns and the dignity that their service to this country demands.

CONGRATULATIONS TO KEENAN MONKS

HON. LOU BARLETTA

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 30, 2011

Mr. BARLETTA. Mr. Speaker, today I wish to acknowledge the accomplishments of Keenan Monks of Hazleton, who recently placed sixth in the 2011 Intel Science Talent Search, a national competition for high school seniors with exceptional promise in math and science.

To earn sixth place, Keenan conducted research on a math equation that can help improve Internet security and cryptography. His work distinguished him from most of the 1,744 high school seniors who entered the talent search. In January, he was named one of 300 semifinalists, then he was chosen to be a finalist and compete here in Washington just a few weeks ago.

Keenan is a 17-year-old student at Hazleton Area High School. He is captain of the cross-country and track and field teams. Keenan has been playing the piano for 12 years. He has won several piano competitions, has performed at Carnegie Hall, and enjoys sequencing music. Keenan has volunteered with the Great Pennsylvania Cleanup, helping remove trash from community roadways. Keenan also coauthored a paper published in Discrete Mathematics.

Mr. Speaker, Keenan Monks is an extraordinary young man. He is a hard worker. He has an innovative mind and an eager spirit. He will no doubt continue to be a bright star in our community. Mr. Speaker, today, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Mr. Keenan Monks of Hazleton for winning sixth place in this year's Intel Science Talent Search.

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